

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

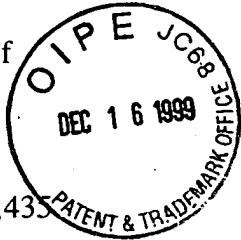
In re Patent Application of

David R. Ferguson et al.

Application No.: 08/947,435

Filed: October 8, 1997

For: COMPUTER-BASED DOCUMENT
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



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) Group Art Unit: 2771
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) Examiner: E. Colbert
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REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The following remarks are submitted in response to the Office Action dated September 16, 1999.

Claims 1-28, 30-51 and 53-83 are currently pending in the present application, wherein claims 1-28, 30-46 and 51 stand rejected, while claims 47-50 and 53-83 would be allowed if rewritten to include the features of the corresponding base claims. After thoroughly studying the Office Action, and the patents cited therein, the Applicants respectfully contend that additional claim amendments are unnecessary. Accordingly, the Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider her position as to claims 1-28, 30-46 and 51 for the reasons presented herein below.

The Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,625,818 ("Zarmer et al."). The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent claim 1 defines a method for managing a document collection in a computer system. The method comprises several steps including, *inter alia*, the step of importing a document (e.g., an electronic letter, memo or e-mail message) into a collection